The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accurately and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1639 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1942 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 36

FACING the FACTS

With PHIL PEARL

Five million tons of scrap must be collected before the snow flies to keep our steel mills going at capacity so that American boys, on their way to the battlefronts, will not be short of war equipment.

The shortage of steel already is putting a serious dent into our war production program. Mills and shipyards in many parts of the country have been forced to shut down, thus throwing thousands out of work. This shortage will be aggravated unless the supply of scrap from that source into the making of steel is promptly augmented. The steel mills have on hand now only a two weeks' supply of scrap.

That is why the Government again appeals to every American to search his cellar and attic and garage for discarded and outworn metal objects that can be added to the nation's scrap piles. The need is urgent. Do it now! Collect all the scrap you can and take it to the neighborhood gasoline station or public garage.

The Government does not ask you for tools or appliances that you need or can still use. It wants only your idle and rusting metal. Surely this isn't too much to ask!

The scrap iron going to rust in your cellar or attic is vitally needed by your Government now. It may be needed by the day of victory. So let's all of us start on a treasure hunt to collect that metal now!

The Role of Labor

Labor Day has come and gone and again the nation must realize that American workers are in the forefront of our war effort. Army, Navy and War Production Board officials emphatically declare that without the enthusiastic support of labor we can't win this war. And every one of them conceded that labor is giving such support to the war effort in full measure.

It was unnecessary for Government officials to stress the need for remaining on the job and avoiding strikes at any cost. This point was driven home much more forcefully by the leaders of labor themselves. Seldom have we heard a more impassioned plea for self-discipline and continuous production than that voiced by AFL President William Green.

It would be well for every member of the American Federation of Labor to give heed to Mr. Green's words. He made it abundantly clear that there can be no excuse or justification for any strike for any cause now. Those who go on strike are striking at themselves, their own safety, their own future and the welfare of all Americans.

There is no need for strikes now to obtain a square deal. The Government, in close cooperation with labor, has machinery set up to correct any substantial injustice to any group of workers who consider themselves mistreated.

But the main thing to remember, as Mr. Green said, is that strikes now help Hitler destroy us and deprive us of the very right to strike.

If ever there was a time when labor had to take a grip on itself and maintain perfect discipline in the ranks—this is it.

Let's show America, let's show the world, that we can do it!

A Word To Congress

President Roosevelt did not disclose the details of his wage stabilization program in his fireside chat to the nation. He said he would stabilize wages at the same time Congress gave him authority to stabilize farm prices at parity. He needs legislative authority to act on farm prices. But he does not need additional legislation to deal with wages.

Despite these obvious facts, politicians in Congress already are talking of tacking on a wage stabilization clause to the new farm price bill. This is supposed to placate the farmers. Actually, it is just cheap politics. Worse than that, it is politics as usual.

It would be a grave mistake for Congress to monkey around with wage stabilization by legislation. This would be a grave and unnecessary departure from the spirit of cooperation which labor and industry alike have shown. If workers are willing to stabilize their wages voluntarily according to the wishes of the Government, certainly it would be a gratuitous insult to force it upon them by law.

Yet the facts are that the President of the United States has come to an understanding with the leaders of labor upon the question of wage stabilization—an understanding that is apparently satisfactory to both sides.

The President made it clear in his talk that he isn't worried about putting wage stabilization into effect. The inference is that this problem is settled. Then why should Congress now proceed to muddy the waters?

We hope the leaders of Congress will do just what the President asked and keep their fingers out of the buzz-saw.

Street Carmen's Union Goes On Air To Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Detroit, Mich.—The street car and bus men's union, one of the largest organizations of the American Federation of Labor, celebrates its fiftieth anniversary September 15.

Highlight of the occasion will be a coast-to-coast radio broadcast over the Blue Network at 10:15 p.m. that evening. President Green, of the American Federation of Labor, Joseph B. Eastman, director of the Office of Defense Transportation, Carl Sandburg, the noted biographer and poet, and John Charles Thomas, the great American baritone, will appear on the program, which will be a dramatic review of organized labor's progress and will stress the cooperation between the union, management and government in the important task of carrying the nation's armed forces and defense workers.

William D. Mahon, veteran president of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes, and a vice-president of the AFL, is being signally honored on this occasion. He is the only man alive who attended the first convention of the organization in 1892. He was elected to head the organization in 1893 and has been unanimously returned to that office at each convention since. The organization was founded by the late Samuel Gompers.

At the present time the Amalgamated Association is at the peak of its organizational and economic strength, with 440 contracts in effect throughout the United States and Canada and in Honolulu. In the last year more than twenty million dollars in wage adjustments have been obtained for the membership through negotiation and arbitration. Ninety-two per cent of the membership pay automatic check-off with pay under contract arrangements, probably the highest percentage of labor organization in the movement.

The Amalgamated Association in connection with labor's war bond drive pledged that its members would purchase twenty-five million dollars' worth of these bonds, and reports being compiled at International headquarters in Detroit indicate that they will go over the top.

The Amalgamated Association has for many years extended the benefits of organization to the nation's highways by its line employes and today represents more than 95 per cent of these. The organization just recently concluded an arbitration with the Greyhound Lines, which set a new rate of 90 cents per mile for bus drivers. This agreement will extend to all drivers of affiliated Greyhound companies in the future.

In another outstanding arbitration award, the members of the Amalgamated Association, employed on the municipally-owned Detroit Street Railway system established the highest known wages in the world for street car and bus operators recently. The award which increases the incomes of the 4,500 employes about two million dollars annually, sets a rate of $1.09 per hour for motor bus and one-man car operators and $1 for motormen and conductors on two-man cars.

In connection with the anniversary celebration, a souvenir edition of the union's official publication, the Motorman, Conductor and Motor Coach Operator, is being issued. A statement of the members and their beneficiaries in disability, old age, and funeral benefits the sum of $27,564,- 811.42 since the benefit system was instituted.

AFL TEXTILE WORKERS WIN EIGHT ELECTIONS

Washington, D. C.—Anthony Valente, secretary-treasurer of the United Textile Workers of America, AFL affiliate, announced that within 15 days the organization has won the right throughout the National Labor Relations Board's 2nd region to represent over 5,000 textile workers in textile parts of the country. In six out of eight mills where elections have been conducted, the UTWA defeated the C.I.O. In the third mill, while in the other two, UTWA defeated "no union."

The mills and locations are as follows: River Mill, Fall River, Mass., 350 workers; Wilton Woolen Co., Milton, Mass., 1,000 workers; Julius Kayser & Co., Walton, N. Y., 150 workers; Pepperell Manufacturing Co., Fall River, Mass., 800 workers; Luther Manufacturing Co., Fall River, Mass., 500 workers; Merrimac Mills, Methuen, Mass., 600 workers; Textile Printing Co., Utica, N. Y., 1,200 workers; Lister Worsted Mill, N. Providence, R. I., 300 workers.

NAVY DEPARTMENT PLANS PERSONNEL DIVISIONS

Washington, D. C.—The Navy Department moved to establish personnel divisions in all shore establishments to coordinate all questions of industrial relations.

This step was announced by Ralph A. Bard, assistant secretary, as a means of implementing the Navy Department's progressive statement of policy on labor relations made early in August.

"We Must Not Fail America Now," Green Tells Workers; Wages To Be Stabilized With Farm Prices, Says F. D. R.; Labor Must Have Larger Voice In War, Meany Urges

AFL Secretary-Treasurer Calls For Cooperation With Employers and Prompt Labor Peace

New York City.—George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, called upon the Federal Government to give labor "a larger voice" in the conduct of the war production program.

At the same time Mr. Meany urged employers of the nation to cooperate more wholeheartedly with labor because "we are all in the same boat in this struggle, whether we are on the labor side or the management side."

"If free labor is wiped out, free industry will also be wiped out," he said.

Pointing out that American wage-earners have already made sacrifices to help the nation's war effort, the AFL secretary-treasurer asserted:

"We say now to our President—and through him to the American people:

"Whatever it is that we must do, whatever it is that we can do, in order to achieve victory, you can rest assured we will do."

Mr. Meany, who spoke over a nation-wide radio network on Labor Day eve, declared that the forthcoming peace talks between AFL and CIO committees "must succeed" because the nation demands a quick end to the division in labor's ranks as the most important single contribution labor can make toward the winning of the war. He said:

"Labor unity today is a subject that is of vital concern not only to the millions of wage-earners in the American Federation of Labor and in the CIO but to everyone in our nation. For America today is fighting for her very life. She needs every assistance which it is possible to give her in this most desperate of all the wars in American history. What other segments of our population can do for our country in this direction is for them to determine, but for American labor there is no single patriotic contribution that would surpass or even equal the prompt reestablishment of a single, unified labor movement. . . . Our officers on the peace committee will go into that conference room eager to do everything humanly possible to answer our nation's plea for action."

Labor Day Sees "Samuel Gompers" And 173 Other Ships Launched

Los Angeles, Cal.—The Samuel Gompers, one of Uncle Sam's latest type Liberty ships, was launched here on Labor Day and launched after the founder of the American Federation of Labor as part of the nation-wide celebration of labor's traditional holiday.

With the exception of the Maritime Commission and the United States Navy, this major ceremony climaxed the greatest day in the nation's maritime history, with a total of 174 ships being launched and fields laid for 49 more in various shipyards throughout the country.

John P. Frey, president of the AFL Metal Trades Department, declared in a coast-to-coast radio address after launching the Samuel Gompers:

"We send this message to the American people and to the nation's defenders on every battle-line—On this Labor Day the American trade union movement re-dedicates itself to the unyielding defense of our national liberties."

Other ships named after labor's leaders of the past, which were launched on Labor Day included the Andrew Furuseth, the Peter J. McGuire and the James Duncan.

Wagner Extols AFL-CIO Aid To War On "Labor For Victory" Program

New York City.—Senator Robert F. Wagner called for a greater recognition of labor in the policies of the War Production Board and for stabilization of wages, farm prices and the cost of living as steps toward victory in the war.

"The war must be fought, and victory can be won only by "using to the utmost the resources and the tools of democracy itself," he said. Among such tools and resources, Senator Wagner added, were "more housing for war workers and more safeguards against accidents and ill health; more contracts for the smaller plants now idle; more equality of sacrifice in taxes and consumer rationing" and a "more vigorous attack upon discrimination in the war effort against patriotic Americans of any race, creed or color."

Senator Wagner spoke on the pre-Labor Day "Labor For Victory" radio program, broadcast by the AFL and the CIO. He paid tribute to both organizations, which, he said, had replaced jurisdictional strife by a "new and healthy form of rivalry," a competition to produce more of the materials of war.

"Time is running fast and at this moment time is not on our side," he continued. "The United Nations must wage today's battles with today's weapons.—Our job at home is to make those weapons and put them within the reach of fighting men.

"American industry—workers and employers—are doing that job patriotically and well. The supply of manpower has proved adequate for all our needs. Industrial disputes have been quickly adjusted, with the loss of merely a fraction of 1 per cent of the total working time.

"Planes made by members of the CIO carried General Doolittle and his men to their brilliant raid over the cities of Japan. Planes made by members of the AFL are battering the invasion coast of Europe in preparation for the second front. Aircraft workers in the two branches of the labor movement are conscious only of this keen competition—which group can produce more planes to drop more bombs on Berlin and Tokyo.

"On this Labor Day, American labor is united in giving support and allegiance to President Roosevelt, the inspired leader of mankind's battle for the better world we all want to live in. And labor stands in the forefront of a United America, ruthless in the war to the finish—until the final triumph of our arms and the final vindication of our democratic faith."

Greek Labor Solidarity Pledged In Fight Against Axis Slavery

Washington, D. C.—Aristides Phimbrates, general secretary of the National Confederation of Greek Labor, sent the following Labor Day greeting to AFL President William Green:

"On the occasion of Labor Day we are sending you, in behalf of Greek labor, whose voice is now strangled by tyranny, the expression of their sentiment of full mutual solidarity toward the great common struggle for freedom.

"Rest assured that the mind of the two million of Greek labor turns, with confidence, toward your great democracy, persisting through its decisive contribution, their liberation from the yoke of slavery, and the expansion, throughout the whole world, of the principles of social justice.

"The fight is hard but victory is certain."

President Says Program Is Plain Justice To Workers And Farmers

Washington, D. C.—"I will stabilize wages."

These fateful words were uttered by President Roosevelt in a fireside chat to the nation on Labor Day after he had sent to Congress a special message demanding legislation permitting the stabilization of farm prices at parity.

"At the same time that farm prices are stabilized, I will stabilize wages," the President explained. "That is plain justice—and plain common-sense.

"Both must be regulated at the same time, and neither one of them can be regulated without the other."

The President asked no legislation on wage stabilization, since he holds he has sufficient authority under present law to take such action. However, existing legislation which forbids placing ceilings on farm prices at less than 110 to 111 per cent of parity, is balking him from putting into effect an overall anti-inflation program.

The Chief Executive sternly told Congress he would give the lawmakers "a free hand" in removing the obstructive impediment to his projected program.

He did not reveal his plans for wage stabilization, but these are being drawn up in close consultation with AFL President William Green and CIO President Philip Murray.

CANADA LABOR CONGRESS SUPPORTS ALL-OUT WAR

Winnipeg, Can.—The 58th annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada pledged the congress' membership of over 200,000 workers to full in complete cooperation in the nation's war effort.

"Tom" Moore, although ill in a hospital, was unanimously re-elected as president. He will be assisted by his executive colleagues until he is able to return to his regular duties.

Percy Bengough was again made senior vice president and James A. Whitebone of St. John, N. B., and J. Arthur D'Aoust of Hull, Que., were elected vice president and secretary-treasurer, respectively.

E. W. Sinfield of Toronto, a vice president and member of the Sheet Metal Workers, retired to take a place with the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

Rulings at the session the convention:

1. Insisted that organized labor representatives be placed in responsible positions on all government commissions and boards having to do with handling war industry.

2. Urged the support of the Congress for a full Canadian all-out effort.

3. Called for the adoption of labor-management councils in all war production establishments.

4. Urged that workers be protected against excessive hours of labor, inadequate wages and that the Congress exercise a constant watch to see that these policies are enforced.

5. Asked the government to amend the Order in Council which freezes wages and demanded a cost of living bonus for "all" workers.

VICTORY FOR FREE LABOR IS CERTAIN ILER SAYS

Grand Rapids, Mich.—"We celebrate Labor Day this year with a grim determination to destroy the menace of the Axis powers," declared C. J. Iler, Director of Labor Relations of the National Youth Administration, in a Labor Day address at Richmond Park here.

"We gather together and resolve that free labor can overcome and outfight enslaved labor. We are determined to throw the full weight of our economic strength behind our Government and her Allies and to proceed with all the strength we possess the American way of life.

"Labor knows clearly the issues involved. Labor knows that this is Labor's war. Every working knows that conquest by the Axis spells the doom of the free trade union movement.

"We're going to win this war and we're going to win the peace following the war. We're going to insist upon a just and honorable peace."

FEDERATION OF THE BLIND USES UNION LABEL GOODS

Bakersfield, Cal.—R. W. Henderson, executive director of the National Federation of the Blind, announced that the recent convention of the federation instructed all its officers and committees to adopt the policy of using printed matter and other supplies bearing the union label.

AFL President Predicts Workers Will Accept Wage Sacrifices In Labor Day Address From Omaha

Omaha, Neb.—AFL President William Green predicted here on Labor Day that American workers would accept the sacrifices involved in President Roosevelt's war-time wage stabilization program "for their own ultimate good and the nation's welfare."

Mr. Green spoke to the nation over a coast-to-coast radio network from Vennylist Park where thousands of workers gathered to attend America's outstanding Labor Day celebration.

In ringing tones, Mr. Green summoned the six million members of the American Federation of Labor to respond to the call of duty.

"Let us resolve," he said, "to do everything in our power, without stint and without reservation, to win this war. And let us resolve to see to it that when peace comes an enduring peace will be established, based on the extension of freedom and democracy to all the peoples in all the lands of the earth.

"The call of the moment is to labor. It is a clear and unmistakable call for more planes and more bombs and more tanks, guns and ships. The voice of a united nation appeals to labor to produce these weapons of war in unlimited quantities for our fighting troops who are being sent across the seven seas to strike a death blow at the enemy. The Army, Navy and Air Forces will not fail us. We must not fail them!

Mr. Green made an impassioned plea to all AFL members to abide religiously by the Federation's no-strike policy. He said:

"We are face to face with the greatest crisis of our time. We cannot continue business as usual or strikes as usual during such a period. All our liberties, including the right to maintain free and democratic trade unions and the right to strike for any cause, hang in the balance of this war.

"It is obvious that labor must stay on the job now in order to preserve for all time the right to strike against injustice! Isn't it clear that strikes for any cause now will help Hitler destroy us forever of the right to strike? Let us face the facts and act accordingly. We must refrain from work stoppages of any kind now in order to maintain our freedom and opportunity to seek economic and social advancement later when the war is over and peace is restored."

Declaring severe measures must be taken to prevent ruinous inflation, Mr. Green reminded the nation's workers that the "price of victory is sacrifice." Referring directly to the President's wage stabilization plans, he said:

"Knowing our spirit that animates American workers today, I haven't the slightest doubt that they will accept this sacrifice for their own ultimate good and the nation's welfare."

Mr. Green reported that the AFL, with six million members, is at its peak strength, "united and forging ahead with real teamwork." He urged prompt settlement of differences with the CIO are emphatically declared "there is no longer any sound reason or excuse" for disunity.

Congratulating American workers for getting the nation ready for war in double-quick time, Mr. Green said it won't be long now before Hitler and Hirohito are forced to defend themselves against superior forces.

"The Nazis and the Japs thought this war was going to be a picnic," he said. "They are finding out now that something new has been added."

Labor Day Highlights

Highlights of outstanding addresses by prominent Americans on Labor Day follow:

Donald Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board, said to a workers' rally in Cleveland:

"There's only one man who can take away your rights as free American working men and women, and that man is Hitler. Work like hell to beat him and he won't take away your rights forever. Let him lose his job and he can indulge in the luxury of exercising those rights when you don't absolutely have to, and you're apt to lose them forever."

Matthew Woll, in an address shortwaved to the people in conquered lands of Europe:

"And so to you, fellow workers in enslaved Europe, fellow workers in Germany and Italy no less enslaved, I say, be of good cheer. You are not alone in this fight against the forces of evil and darkness. Here in America you have 130,000,000 friends, throughout the world you have a thousand million friends. In the name of American organized labor I bid you keep up your courage. Your liberation is certain."

Philip Murray, CIO president, told a gathering of workers at New Kensington, Pa.:

"I've got just as great admiration for the American Federation of Labor as I've got for the CIO. I'm not quarreling with the fact of desertion have been set. We're going to work with the AFL or any other union that will work to win this war. Get that."

I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the AFL Union Label Trades Department, declared in a coast-to-coast radio address:

"The Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor has offered its all-out support to our Government in the early victory in our war for world freedom. Every activity of the department is geared to our total war effort. All of the resources of our organization, the experience of our officials, and the skill of our union workers are being channeled through the various war agencies with the single purpose of defeating the Axis nations so we can maintain the democratic institutions by which we have established the highest standard of living."

Undersecretary of War Patterson and Undersecretary of Navy Forrestal, in joint telegrams sent on Labor Day to employes of more than 500 companies throughout the country which are supplying basic materials for the war program, said:

"On every world front American troops are fighting desperately. Their fight will be a long and a hard one. Labor and management in the mines, in the factories, in the smelters and the forests and farms. You are supplying our soldiers, sailors and marines the materials with which to carry the war to the enemy. We need and must have these materials now. With them, the Army and Navy, taking the offensive in both East and West, will smash with you to final victory."

Rear Admiral C. H. Woodward, Chief of the Navy's Incentive Division, said in a Labor Day statement:

"The shipyard workers in this country have done a great job for the Navy. Theirs is an almost unbelievable achievement! I wonder if the American public realizes it. On Labor Day alone, more than 150 warship launchings and keel layings took place throughout the United States. That is a world's record for the shipbuilding industry! It is a triumph for free American labor, the hope of the enslaved labor of the Axis-dominated countries."

PAYROLL DEDUCTION PLAN ADOPTED BY HOTEL UNION

New York, N. Y.—Hotel and Club Employes Union, Local 6, AFL affiliate, at a meeting of the Shop Delegates Council representing 15,000 organized hotel and club workers, voted unanimously to adopt and put into effect at once the ten per cent payroll deduction plan of the U. S. Treasury for the purchase of war bonds. The council comprised 350 delegates from over 100 union hotels and clubs.

WILKES-BARRE LACE UNION BUYS $39,000 WAR BONDS

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.—Bud Abbott and Lou Costello, film comedians, climaxed their war bond selling tour of the Wyoming Valley from Nanticoke to Wilkes-Barre with a dinner at the Redington Hotel here. When Costello got down to business selling bonds the first purchase was made by Wilkes-Barre Lace Accessory and Finishers Union, Local 13393, American Federation of Labor affiliate, which pledged $10,000. The local had previously purchased $20,000 in bonds. The sales at the dinner totaled $376,719.